

HUNDREDS DAZZLED BY BRILLIANT COMET

Local Astronomers Thought Haley's Nebular Traveler Was Approaching. FINALLY AGREE IT'S DRAKE'S

Moved Downward to Horizon, With Tail Flaring Upward Behind.

Hundreds of people viewed for the first time, just before and during sunset yesterday, what is known as Drake's comet, which was recently discovered from Johannesburg and which has been seen in South Carolina and other Southern States. It was an interesting and curious sight, many people mistaking the phenomenon for Haley's comet, which has been here yesterday, but no relation whatever to Haley's, though, from a layman's point of view, it is almost as interesting.

The comet was plainly visible in the suburbs, the western part of the city and from the city buildings having an unobstructed view of the western horizon, and from Richmond College.

Visible to Naked Eye. Professor Eugene C. Bingham, of Richmond College, who was among the first to discover the nebula, and through unknown skies, said that it was plainly visible to the naked eye between 6 and 6:30 o'clock. It may be seen by any interested observer directing one's vision toward the planet Venus, now the evening star, and the house.

It bears somewhat to the north of the evening star. Its head is almost as bright as Venus itself, and it has a long, straight tail, about twenty feet in length. It moves downward to the horizon, with the tail flaring upward behind, sinking perpendicularly, as it were, toward the sun. Seen through field glasses, it appears dazzlingly brilliant.

Very little is known yet about the comet, whether it is new or an old one, and nothing can be determined as to its movements, until astronomers have calculated its orbit. If the orbit, as Professor Bingham says, is in the form of a hyperbola or parabola, it will never return, but shoot out into space as suddenly as it came.

Drake's comet is, however, probably new. It is not, as is known about it. No comet of its magnitude has been seen since 1872.

As observed at Cambridge, England, the brightness of this comet was equal to that of the planet Mercury, and the tail was estimated to be two degrees long, equivalent in sky measure to four times the breadth of the moon. It has no connection, as stated, with Haley's comet, nor is it like the great comet of 1881, which was a member of that family of comets which is the cause of the sun's surface at the time of their most approach to it.

The unusual sight attracted much attention in Richmond and the surrounding country yesterday, and there was no other comet to be seen. Those who thought they were gazing on the comet named after Haley, and whose coming has been predicted by the astronomers, were disappointed, as they went out on their roofs to view it, and others went out to the high, open spaces, where there were no buildings to interrupt the gaze.

MOTOR CAR SMASHED

Two Men Hurt in Accident in Fulton and Machine Practically Ruined. Two men were injured in a collision with a motor car, which was smashed to pieces, in an accident on Fulton street, yesterday afternoon, when the car ran into a telegraph pole and was hurled up on the sidewalk. The man in charge of the machine and his badly skinned, and his companion was injured in the head. Both walked off to the drug store at Twenty-first and Main streets, and left the car where it was, it was impossible to move it.

It is said that the machine had been loaded by the driver with a large number of bottles of soda water, and that it was driving about with its friends, among them being several girls. He went too fast for them, it is said, and as he was turning, the front wheels were broken off, and the front of the car was damaged, probably beyond repair.

DR. ANNA SHAW ARRIVES TODAY

President Lyon G. Tyler to Introduce Speaker at Equal Suffrage Meeting.

President Lyon Gardner Tyler, of William and Mary College, will introduce Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, president of the Women's National Suffrage Association, who will deliver an address at the Jefferson Auditorium to-morrow night, under the auspices of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia. Dr. Shaw, who is a brilliant woman, a most entertaining speaker, and a logical thinker, will discuss "Woman's Suffrage: Its Relation to the Home and the State."

Dr. Tyler is in favor of suffrage for women, and is a member of the Virginia League. He is expected to arrive here to-day, to be the guest of Mrs. S. Dabney Crenshaw.

The lecture is free and representative attendance. There will be nothing frivolous about it—no appeal to the right to vote be extended to the women just at this time. Members of the General Assembly before the question will come eventually, are especially urged to hear Dr. Shaw for she will say things which are calculated to make them think.

Since its organization here the Virginia League has grown to a remarkable extent. It has a membership composed of many of the leading women of Richmond, and at recent meetings the objects have been explained clearly and intelligently by some of the foremost writers and thinkers of the State.

BOY UNCONSCIOUS FOR EIGHT DAYS

Raymond Smith Lingers in Virginia Hospital With Fractured Skull.

Raymond Smith, thirteen years old, has remained unconscious in the Virginia Hospital since Saturday, January 15, when he suffered a compound fracture of the base of the skull in a street car accident near First and Grace streets. That he is alive is considered miraculous, as physicians who performed an operation believed he would certainly die from the injury.

Although unconscious, the boy's condition has improved, and the chances are about even that he will recover and will retain possession of all his faculties. In such cases, it is said, unless death results quickly, the patient generally lingers for several days, and seldom shows signs of improvement. At times the Smith child is restless, but he rests quietly and appears to be in a deep sleep.

Once since the accident, when his mother, Mrs. C. G. Smith, of 413 East Main Street, was at the bedside, Raymond opened his eyes, appeared to recognize her, and then resumed his former unconscious state. His father died three days before the accident. No arrests have been made in the case, which was investigated by another, even though death results it is not probable that any one will be held criminally responsible.

THREE GENERAL RATES

Census Enumerators Get Information About Their Wages.

Supervisor C. Ridgway Moore, of his district, has received from the Census Bureau a detailed statement of the classification of rates adopted for compensation of enumerators. His father died three days before the accident. No arrests have been made in the case, which was investigated by another, even though death results it is not probable that any one will be held criminally responsible.

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HOWITZERS READY TO OPEN ARMORY

Governor, Mayor and Other Distinguished Persons Invited to Ceremony.

NEW HOME A GREAT PLACE

Equipment, Gymnasium and Drill Hall Equal to Any in the South.

With members of the Legislature, the City Council and the Governor and Mayor as their guests, the Richmond Howitzers will open, with a fitting ceremony, the new addition to their armory, on North Eighth Street, at 8:30 o'clock Thursday night.

The address was made by Governor Swanson and Mayor Richardson, and by some members of the Legislature interested in the State militia, and probably by Adjutant-General Anderson and Adjutant-General-Elect Sale. The ceremony will be preceded by a smoker, after which will come the speeches and an inspection of the new building.

Fluently Equipped. The addition contains a gymnasium, which has been magnificently equipped with all the usual paraphernalia, swimming pool, poolroom, reading room and other adjuncts. The gymnasium features, especially are said to compare well with any of the kind in the South. The equipment has long been needed, and the Howitzers have been working over the matter for twelve or eighteen months.

The drill hall, guns and ammunition still remain in the old building, proper on Seventh Street, and the addition is to be used only as a sort of gymnasium and drill hall, where the men may avail themselves of the gymnastic paraphernalia for athletic purposes, and the reading and pool rooms for social pleasures.

LINE NOW OPEN

Chesapeake and Ohio Coal Trains Making Good Time.

Officials of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway reported yesterday that their Western lines were rapidly being cleared up after the recent congestion incident to bad weather and unusually heavy demands for coal.

Heavy snows and sleet in the West have blocked up traffic, and in some cases held up trains for days. At the same time coal trains were being cleared up yesterday, and though snows are heavy, trains are running with usual regularity, and not far behind the schedule.

Denies Scandalous Reports

Colonel Bill Skillett got back to Henric yesterday. This news, flashing all the way from Dumfries to Henric, created more real consternation than anything that had happened since the county was born.

Wearing a biscuit-colored sombrero, he walked up to his gate, glanced about a moment and bolted. Mrs. Skillett, his wife (Mrs. Skillett had been calling herself a widow for night on six months) looked up at the figure by the gate, then she fainted. The little Skillett screamed frantically and fled.

"Guess it's time for you to throw a fit, old lady," said Bill, as he dashed a dipper of water in her face. "From what they told me up the way reminded me of Enoch Arden, only I got back in time to keep you from marrying that piano player in the moving picture show. And you all dressed up like a nine-spot and thinking me dead."

Some of these low-brows have been piped in off and saved the old man. Skillett couldn't come back because he was in jail," he said, "which reminds me that the saint always keeps his coat on the inside, while the others don't give a continental about the saint. Since leaving here I've been pining in the forests. Others say I've come back for a secret reason—to boost annexation, help save the oyster industry and the John Marshall house, and to cast one honest ballot against the Anti-Saloon League, which is trying to take away my rations."

Sam W. Martin, of Chesterfield county, and Miss Verly Hill, of Basic City, were married in Washington on Friday. They returned from their bridal trip Saturday night, and will reside in Chesterfield.

Three bids were received Friday in the Builders' Exchange for the Allegheny Warehouse to be erected in this city. A. F. Hunt, architect, has the orders and their bids are: J. T. Nuckolls, \$10,772; J. T. Wilson, \$11,000, and W. L. Ragland & Co., \$12,263.

Court will be in session to-day to hear the case of Lloyd H. Randall vs. Home Beneficial Association.

The regular weekly business meeting of the Elks' Lodge, No. 843, will be held at 8 o'clock to-night.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

GRADUATE NURSES COMES BACK THIS WEEK

Tenth Annual Convention of Virginia Association to Convene at Murphy's.

MANY SOCIAL FEATURES

President's Report to Deal With Questions Relating to Hospital Work.

Trained nurses from all sections of the State will assemble here to-day for the purpose of attending the tenth annual convention of the Graduate Nurses' Association of Virginia, which will be in session at Murphy's Hotel from 3 o'clock to-morrow.

Following are the officers of the association: President, Miss Ethel Smith, of Norfolk; first vice-president, Miss Elizabeth Johnson, of Richmond; second vice-president, Miss Sallie Earhart, of Lynchburg; third vice-president, Miss Carlos, of Norfolk; secretary, Miss Annie Guiley, of Richmond; treasurer, Miss Julia, of Hampton, Norfolk.

The proceedings open to-morrow at 3 P. M. with an executive session. At 4 o'clock the convention will be called to order and the speakers introduced by Dr. William S. Gordon. Prayer will be offered by Rev. H. C. MacLachlan, D. D., with the address of welcome by the Mayor and response by the president.

Thursday will be the most strenuous day of the convention, practically every hour being taken up. Opening at 8:30 A. M. half an hour will be given to registration and payment of dues. The business session will open at 9 o'clock with the president's address and reports from other officers.

The last day's session will open at 9 A. M. with a paper on "Tuberculosis," by Mrs. J. M. Thompson, of Norfolk. Miss Gertrude Thompson, of Norfolk, will read a paper on "Nurses and Social Work," to be discussed by Miss Minnie Bumgardner, of Staunton, and discussed by Miss Cora Watkins, of Staunton.

At 2 o'clock luncheon will be served at the Memorial Hospital, the visitors and the guests of the alumnae of that institution.

Following are the committees in charge of the convention: Arrangements—Charles W. Eaton, chairman; Miss Ruth Bates, of Norfolk; David Bell, Miss Annie Guiley, Miss Naomi Simmons, Program—Miss Elizabeth Johnson, of Richmond; Entertainment—Miss Ruth Bates, chairman; Miss August Meyer, Miss Naomi Simmons, Miss Lottie Thomas, Reception—Miss Annie Guiley, of Norfolk; Miss A. B. Corling, Mrs. Meade Mann, Miss Florence Black, Mrs. A. L. Gray, Miss Nell Broadus and Miss Fannie Washington.

CAN'T SUPPLY DEMAND

Many Towns and Schools Want Traveling Libraries From State.

Traveling libraries continue to be much in demand. The calls for these collections from schools and communities have been so numerous that the supply of books for this purpose is being exhausted. The State Library is unable to supply the demand.

The traveling library division of the State Library has supplied the following schools and communities within the past two weeks: Paxson school, Loudoun county; Wardsboro high school, Brunswick county; Climax high school, Pittsylvania county; WIR, Hanover county; Lexington, Virginia; Louisiana county; Appomattox Agricultural High School; Hall's Hill school, Alexandria county; McGheesville, Rockingham county; Reeves high school, Smyth county; McDowell, Highland county; and Virginia Beach, Princess Anne county.

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HOSPITAL ROMANCE COMES OUT AT LAST

Major Werner Not Worried About Madam Thebes or Madam Athens, Either.

Present Work of Each to Continue Until Groom Is Awarded His Diploma.

Major Werner, Chief of Police, yesterday read with alarm the reported views of Madam Thebes, of the Herald, who says concerning human events in general that "terrible events are in store for America is placed under the worst zone of all evil are out of the orbit," she says. "Our souls have lost their place. I dare not say that is a revelation and mine."

"But," said the chief, "so far none of the scientists—Lodge, Flammarion or the rest—has discovered that the planet is out of place, and if it is out of place, there is tremendous danger, all scientists agree, that the Haley comet will 'blitz' and 'blitz' this world. The Haley comet is coming fast and is very long. If it strikes the earth, souls and everything else will be out of place."

"Read well what I have told you," said Madam Thebes, who speaks mainly concerning souls. She probably has most of her opinions on the fact that there will be four eclipses in 1910—two of the sun and two of the moon—but an eclipse of the sun is a daily occurrence. She says that young girls will marry old men, but it is not reported that any of the old nobility of Europe are afraid of marrying young or the misplacement of the planet's souls. She did certainly try to prevent bloody crime."

"There are laws governing the movement of planets," he said, "and nothing but the power behind us all can affect them. There are no laws against the intermarriage of old and young, and there are no human laws governing the proper placement of souls. So far as I believe, there never will be. I don't pretend to try to regulate the souls of men, but I will endeavor to increase of crime in Richmond, and to tell you the truth, I don't believe in a sudden increase in the predictions of Madam Thebes, Madam Athens or any other madam. Let 'em predict."

ANNUAL REUNION

Odd-Fellows to Have Celebration With Union Lodge Next Month.

According to the custom of several years, Odd-fellows of this city will hold their annual reunion at the Union Lodge, Smithfield Hall, on February 8. It is expected that the full membership will be present.

Addresses will be made by past grand masters, Senator Roland E. Chase, Senator J. C. Noel, C. W. Morris, J. M. Butler, Charles F. W. Oglethorpe, Fred Wilson, I. Stone, G. W. Graves, J. A. Devine, Fred Mulder and J. M. Lancaster.

MISSING FOR TWO WEEKS

Police Unable to Locate Paul Cunningham, Old Colored Man.

No trace of the whereabouts of Paul Cunningham, sixty-five years old, has been found since he disappeared more than two weeks ago. The negro left his room in the rear of 115 East Cary Street, about 3 o'clock in the morning, and has not been seen since.

Each time the canal is drained his sister and other relatives search the bottom of the river, but they have not been located yesterday. They said the man must have walked into the country or have ended his life. The Cunningham family has disappeared has caused superstitious negroes to believe that he has fallen into the hands of evil spirits, who will dispose of his body.

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TRYING TO LOCATE BUNCH OF FAKERS

Dr. Buchanan Says Solicitors Are Not Authorized to Collect Money for Societies.

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SCIENTISTS CAN'T FRIGHTEN CHIEF

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Present Work of Each to Continue Until Groom Is Awarded His Diploma.

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COULDN'T REACH TOP

Man, On Wager, Fails to Throw Lemon Over Jail Buildings.

Three men were found in the Jefferson Hotel, and Mrs. Surface says they will not alter their plans, but will remain in Richmond until the husband graduates, after which they will live in Roanoke.

Three heavy specimens of the fruit were purchased at Seventh and Main streets, and Mrs. Surface says they will not alter their plans, but will remain in Richmond until the husband graduates, after which they will live in Roanoke.

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NEED BIG MONEY FOR DOG POUND

Council Believes, However, That It's a Good Thing to Keep Stray Curs Away.

Superintendent Cohn, of the Street Cleaning Department, who has direct supervision over the dog pound, has sent a request to the Council Committee on Finance, to keep the pound in operation during the present year. To pay that much to catch and kill stray dogs might seem a big amount, but it is not regarded as abnormal by members of the Council who understand what the department is doing.

While the figures for 1909 are not available, at the moment the report for 1908 shows that 2,322 dogs were killed at the pound, a large number having been returned to the owners. The pound was kept in operation during the present year. To pay that much to catch and kill stray dogs might seem a big amount, but it is not regarded as abnormal by members of the Council who understand what the department is doing.

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